

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
FINAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

AGREEMENT: T - 15 - 1
GRANT TITLE: Fluvial Arctic Grayling Restoration
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005

Objectives

The objective of this Grant is to restore fluvial Arctic grayling in the upper Missouri River basin in Montana.

Location

Work will occur in the upper Missouri River basin and selected major tributaries (Big Hole, Beaverhead, Ruby, Sun, and Missouri Headwaters) and Missouri Rivers in southwestern Montana.

Accomplishments

Big Hole River and Brood Populations

- Completed population monitoring for Arctic grayling and sympatric species in the Big Hole River.
- Assessed instream flow and thermal regimes in Big Hole River.
- Worked with private landowners, agencies, sporting and conservation groups to promote and implement habitat enhancement efforts for Big Hole Arctic Grayling
- Monitored brood populations at Green Hollow II and Axolotl Lakes, collected specimens for pathogen testing, collected gametes for remote site incubators and cultivation to yearlings for reintroduction efforts. Supplemented brood populations with additional year class.
- Completed Annual Project Report for 2003 and 2004 (both reports are attached). Completed additional Big Hole River Habitat Assessment and Ruby River Project reports in 2004.
- Completed public education and outreach through presentations with students, conservation, sporting and landowner and other interest groups.

Beaverhead River

- Reintroduction efforts were suspended due to on-going drought.

Ruby River

- Stocked approximately 30,000 yearling grayling in May 2004, and 15,000 yearling grayling in May 2005.
- Completed spring and fall population monitoring for Arctic grayling and sympatric species.

- Deployed approximately 20 remote site incubators in spring 2004, and 40 in 2005 in upper Ruby to develop grayling fry under natural selective mechanisms.
- Deployed, collected and analyzed instream temperatures at numerous sites.
- Worked with landowners and agency personnel to promote and implement habitat enhancement efforts.
- Completed angler creel surveys to assess grayling distribution and catch rates.

Sun River

- Deployed 10 remote site incubators in May 2004, and 30 in May 2005 to develop eyed eggs derived from fluvial brood population under natural selective mechanism.
- Completed electrofishing surveys at the confluence of the north and south forks.
- Completed trapping and gillnetting surveys in Gibson reservoir.
- Continued volunteer creel surveys to assess grayling distribution and catch rates.

Missouri River Headwaters

- Stocked approximately 92,000 yearlings in fall 2003, 40,000 in spring 2004 and 35,000 in Spring 2005.
- Completed fall surveys in 2004 to assess distribution survival of stocked grayling on Missouri, Gallatin, and Madison Rivers.

Variances

Reintroduction efforts were suspended on the Beaverhead River due to on-going drought.

Expenditure Recap:

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	70,000.00		83,615.00		153,615.00
Indirect @ 18.9%	13,615.00				13,615.00
Total	83,615.00	50.0%	83,615.00	50.0%	167,230.00

Actual:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	65,886.99		78,027.86		143,914.85
Indirect	12,071.44				12,071.44
Program Income	-8.44				-8.44
Total	77,949.99	49.98%	78,027.86	50.02%	155,977.85

Project Personnel

Jim Magee	Fisheries Biologist	406-683-9310	mageejames@mt.gov
Adam Brooks	Federal Aid Program Mgr.	406-444-3032	abrooks@mt.gov
Bob Snyder	Native Species Program Mgr.	406-444-1563	bsnyder@mt.gov
Ken McDonald	Spec. Projects Bureau Chief	406-444-7409	kmcdonald@mt.gov

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